

U.S. Serial No. 10/673,608

HIT 2 325-09

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 16-24 are now pending.

The Examiner objected to Claim 20 as to containing an inappropriate preamble in light of the amendment removing reference to reproduction in Claim 20, the preamble is believed to be appropriate now.

Claims 16, 18-20, and 22-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hinz et al., U.S. 4,835,628 (Hinz). The Applicants traverse as follows.

In each of the pending claims, the invention is defined as requiring synchronizing signals and address signals, including plural synchronizing signals and address signals in the preamble portion of the magnetic tape, and a first synchronizing signal and address signal in a data block of a digital signal portion. The address signal in the preamble portion is provided in continuity with the address signal in the data block, as claimed in independent claims 16 and 20, and the preamble signal is recorded in continuity with the digital signal data as claimed in new Claim 24.

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Hinz discloses that signals recorded in a preamble portion 88 includes Stripe Start Characters, Clock Reference Regions, and Physical Reference Regions. The CRRs include a plurality of bits having the same make-up, and provide a frequency and phase reference to the drive unit reading electronics. Further, reading a single or multiple of the CRRs is sufficient to establish the frequency and phase reference.

Thus, Hinz discloses to provide a signal which is itself a frequency and phase standard to PLL processing circuitry in the reproducing unit of the digital information signal. However, as a frequency and phase reference, the CRRs are not synchronizing signals as required by the claims.

Rather, Hinz provides a bit synchronization field BSF 106 in each data sub-block DSB 104. Thus, Hinz does not provide a synchronizing signal in the preamble portion as required by the present claims.

In addition, Hinz neither teaches nor suggests to provide a preamble portion and data block portion in continuity as required by Claim 24; or to provide continuity of first and second address signals in the preamble data signal portions, respectively, as required by Claims 16 and 20.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,


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